



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Dianna Grey, Homeless Strategy Officer
Joseph Chacon, Austin Police Department
Darrell Alexander, Building Services
Rosie Truelove, Housing and Planning Department

DATE: May 13, 2022

SUBJECT: Recent criminal trespassing at Pecan Gardens and update on conversion to permanent supportive housing

This memorandum serves to provide background on a recent trespassing incident at the former Candlewood Suites hotel, now known as Pecan Gardens, located at 10811 Pecan Park Boulevard as well as an update on the conversion of the site to permanent supportive housing (PSH).

Criminal Trespassing Incident

Recently, staff was notified of criminal trespassing at Pecan Gardens. The criminal trespassing was uncovered because of a smoke alarm call to the Austin Fire Department (AFD). Upon arrival AFD found trespassers in the building. Consequently, Austin Police Department (APD) was also called to the site and continues to investigate this incident.

Actions Taken to Avoid Future Criminal Trespassing

The Homeless Strategy Division (HSD) and Austin Public Health (APH) facilities staff have conducted four follow-up visits to the site after being notified of the criminal trespassing. The Building Services Department (BSD) has arranged for contracted security to secure, patrol, and monitor the site day and night. BSD is also assisting with assessing damages and clean up. Additionally, CMO is in communications with our public safety departments to flag this location as City-owned property and “high profile” so that staff is apprised immediately on matters of this nature.

As background, the site is currently vacant until construction commences to convert the site to PSH. Prior to this event, the site was used as an Isolation Facility (IsoFac) from mid-January through the end of March of this year. The City intended to implement routine security monitoring earlier this year. However, due to a delay in processing the request, security had not been initiated at the site. The matter will be reviewed further to determine what improvements need to be made to speed up requests of this nature.

Conversion to Permanent Supportive Housing

On February 1, 2022, HSD provided a briefing to Council which included an [update](#) on the City's hotel conversion plans; an additional briefing was provided by the Housing and Planning Department at the April 12, 2022 Housing Committee meeting. Staff continue to work towards the conversion of the Pecan Gardens property to its long-term use of 78 permanent supportive housing (PSH). On the May 19th City Council agenda, there will be an agenda item for consideration to approve a contract with Family Eldercare to manage the renovation of the property and ultimately operate the property as PSH. As a note, the item is on the Austin Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) May 19th agenda currently, and that item will be removed and posted to the City Council agenda. Staff anticipates renovations to be completed and the PSH facility to be ready for use by December 2022.

Next Steps

Each hotel financed through the AHFC will be assigned to a single purpose nonprofit corporation. The corporation for Pecan Garden has been established, and there will be future AHFC agenda items to take the appropriate action to transfer ownership of the property to the new nonprofit corporation.

Staff is available for any future questions individual Council Members may have regarding the criminal trespassing and conversion to PSH.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
 Stephanie Hayden- Howard, Assistant City Manager
 Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager
 Rodney Gonzales, Assistant City Manager
 Veronica Briseno, Assistant City Manager